



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

January 13, 2005

Press Release

USCIS TO NATURALIZE MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS IN SEOUL

Ceremony continues USCIS overseas military naturalization efforts; will include unfurling of "Old Glory"

Washington, DC – Approximately 31 active-duty service members will take the Oath of Allegiance and become the newest U.S. citizens during a special overseas military naturalization ceremony on January 13, 2005, in Seoul, South Korea, at Yongson Military Base. The ceremony in Seoul is a continuation of the implementation of overseas military naturalization ceremonies conducted by the United States Federal Government, the first of which took place in Afghanistan, Iraq and Seoul in October of 2004.

At the conclusion of the naturalization ceremony, the new citizens will be unfurling and presenting the United States flag "Old Glory". "Old Glory" has flown over the hallowed ground of Normandy, Pearl Harbor, Midway Island, Iwo Jima, Oklahoma City, Ground Zero (NYC), Shanksville, PA, the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery. After the Seoul naturalization ceremony, the next stop for this historic flag is the planned presidential inauguration ceremony scheduled for January 20, 2005 in Washington D.C.

"I am tremendously proud to welcome as new citizens men and women who have pledged to protect America's freedom," said Director of USCIS Eduardo Aguirre. "Thousands of immigrant troops are making extraordinary sacrifices for America. There is no more fitting way for a grateful nation to demonstrate its appreciation than through granting qualified service members the privilege of U.S. citizenship as quickly as possible, to carry out their dream of becoming Americans."

In November of 2003, President Bush signed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004. The Act amended portions of the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow for overseas military naturalization ceremonies. Before October 1, 2004, military service members could only naturalize while physically within the United States.

– USCIS –

On March 1, 2003, U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing our nation's security.